



February 15, 2023



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ANY NAME.....ANY COMPANY  
12345 GENERIC LANE, SUITE 1234  
HOMETOWN, MN 12345

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

#### Elevated Combined Radium Levels Were Detected in Inver Grove Heights Drinking Water

The City of Inver Grove Heights, in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), monitors its public water system for the presence of drinking water contaminants on a quarterly basis. On January 30, 2023, the City was informed by the MDH that the most recent test samples, taken on October 22, 2022, show that the level of combined radium—types 226 and 228—at the Inver Grove Heights Water Treatment Plant was 6.0 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L). **This result is above the allowable drinking water standard for radium, or Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL), of 5.4 pCi/L.**

#### What This Means

Radium 226 and 228 are isotopes of the chemical element radium. Small amounts of radium occur naturally in air, water, and soil, and radium levels in groundwater fluctuate over time. Radium is common in the St. Peter-Prairie Du Chien-Jordan aquifer, which is the groundwater aquifer that Inver Grove Heights and most communities in Dakota County draw their groundwater from. The City treats groundwater for a variety of contaminants, including radium. Although we are all exposed to radium that occurs naturally in our environment, large doses of radium over many years may increase the risk of developing cancer for some people.

#### Steps the City Has Taken

The City of Inver Grove Heights water treatment plant, which was built in 1998 and expanded in 2006, was one of the first in the Twin Cities to be designed and built to treat for radium removal, utilizing a combination of chemical treatment, oxidation, and sand filtration. Sand filtration is the most effective type of filter for removing radium. However, as filters age, the effectiveness of radium removal is reduced, and the filters require replacement. As part of the 2023-2027 Public Works Capital Improvement Plan, the City of Inver Grove Heights has planned for a water treatment plant filter replacement and rehabilitation project in 2024, with design beginning soon. **In the interim, City Utilities staff have immediately modified pumping and chemical treatment techniques at the Inver Grove Heights Water Treatment Plant to reduce radium concentrations, and have begun increasing the testing frequency for radium at the treatment plant and at other points throughout our public water system.**

## Impacts to Inver Grove Heights Residents

**The City takes this matter seriously and is acting urgently to mitigate this issue. However, this is not an emergency. You do not need an alternative source of water (such as bottled water), nor do you need to boil water before use.** People with specific health concerns are encouraged to consult their doctor or health care provider. Residents with questions about the effectiveness of their home water treatment systems in filtering radium should consult with the system manufacturer or installation company.

## More Resources and Information Are Available

The City has created a website dedicated to the monitoring and sharing of information related to elevated radium levels within the City of Inver Grove Heights drinking water system, which will be updated as we have new information to share:

**[www.ighmn.gov/waternotice](http://www.ighmn.gov/waternotice)**

A Community Meeting will be held **Tuesday, February 28, 2023, at 6 p.m.** in the Council Chambers at Inver Grove Heights City Hall, 8150 Barbara Avenue, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077. Staff from the City's Public Works Department and the Minnesota Department of Health will provide a presentation on recent water testing results, review of recent Water Treatment Plant operational modifications and future improvements, and answer questions about radium in drinking water. For those who cannot attend the meeting, it will also be aired by Town Square Television on cable channel 15/859 HD and streamed at [www.townsquare.tv](http://www.townsquare.tv). A link to a video recording of the meeting will also be posted at [www.ighmn.gov/waternotice](http://www.ighmn.gov/waternotice).

***Water customers are requested to share this information with all other people who consume City of Inver Grove Heights water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly. (For example: people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses.) If you are a landlord, please post this notice in a public place or distribute copies by hand or by mail to your tenant(s).***

For more information, please visit [www.ighmn.gov/waternotice](http://www.ighmn.gov/waternotice), or contact the City of IGH at:

Email: [water@ighmn.gov](mailto:water@ighmn.gov)  
Phone: 651-450-4309  
Mail: City of Inver Grove Heights  
c/o Utility Superintendent  
8150 Barbara Avenue  
Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

This notice is being sent to you by the City of Inver Grove Heights.  
Mailing Date: February 15, 2023